REMARKS

Claims 1 - 22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 have been rejected. Claims 1, 10, 18, 20 and 22 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1, 10, and 18 stand rejected under Bohannon, U.S. Patent No. 6,134,324 (Bohannon). Claims 20, and 22 stand rejected under Bohannon in view of Patterson, U.S. Patent No. 6,389,541 (Patterson). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth by amended independent claim 1, relates to a method of selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer the method includes reading a configuration file that contains computer system information including manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer, determining an encrypted key from one or more bytes from the configuration file, including the manufacturer specific information, and deciphering data stored on a nonvolatile storage device using the key so as to ensure that the software is installed only on a computer system manufactured by the computer system manufacturer.

The present invention, as set forth by amended independent claim 10, relates to a computer system for selectively installing software. The computer system is manufactured by a computer system manufacturer and includes a processor, nonvolatile memory operatively coupled to the processor, a nonvolatile storage device, one or more configuration files, a computer program executable by the processor. The computer program is capable of reading a configuration file stored in the nonvolatile memory and determining an encrypted key from one or more bytes read from the configuration file. The encrypted key is capable of deciphering data stored on the nonvolatile storage device so as to ensure that the software is installed only on a computer system manufactured by the computer system manufacturer. The one or more configuration files contain computer system information. The computer system information includes manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer.

The present invention, as set forth by amended independent claim 18, relates to a method of selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system

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manufacturer. The method includes reading a configuration file that contains computer system information, determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file including manufacturer specific information, and storing the key in a registry file. The computer system information includes the manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer.

The present invention, as set forth by amended independent claim 20, relates to a computer readable medium for selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer. The computer readable medium includes means for reading a configuration file that contains computer system information, means for determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file including manufacturer specific information, and means for storing the key in a registry. The computer system information includes the manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer.

The present invention, as set forth by amended independent claim 22, relates to a computer system for selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer. The computer system includes means for reading a configuration file that contains computer system information, means for determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file including manufacturer specific information, and means for storing the key in a registry. The computer system information includes the manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer.

Bohannon discloses a technique for mass distributing software products, especially integrated circuit design tools and design libraries, while allowing only a selected portion of the software products to be loaded onto and used on a computer. With the technique, each portion of a software product is encrypted with a key code. A configuration file which is uniquely configured for each customer contains a list of selected portions of the software products and key codes for decrypting only the selected portions of the software products.

Patterson discloses a method for regulating access to digital content such as text video and music. The content is stored as part of a compressed and encrypted data file at a client computer. The content is inaccessible to the user until a use authorization occurs. The data file

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is activated and locked to the particular client computer. The data file is not accessible without new authorization if the data file is transferred to another computer.

Bohannon and Patterson, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method of selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer, wherein the method includes reading a configuration file that contains computer system information including manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer, determining an encrypted key from one or more bytes from the configuration file, including the manufacturer specific information, and deciphering data stored on a nonvolatile storage device using the key so as to ensure that the software is installed only on a computer system manufactured by the computer system manufacturer, all as required by independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Bohannon and Patterson. Claims 2 – 9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Bohannon and Patterson, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer system for selectively installing software where the computer system is manufactured by a computer system manufacturer and includes a processor, nonvolatile memory operatively coupled to the processor, a nonvolatile storage device, one or more configuration files, a computer program executable by the processor wherein the computer program is capable of reading a configuration file stored in the nonvolatile memory and determining an encrypted key from one or more bytes read from the configuration file and the encrypted key is capable of deciphering data stored on the nonvolatile storage device so as to ensure that the software is installed only on a computer system manufactured by the computer system manufacturer and wherein one or more configuration files contains computer system information which computer system information includes manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer, all as required by claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over Bohannon and Patterson. Claims 11 – 17 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Bohannon and Patterson, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method of selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer which includes reading a configuration file that contains computer system

information which includes manufacturer specific identification information, determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file including the manufacturer specific information identifying the computer system manufacturer, and storing the key in a registry file, all as required by claim 18. Accordingly, claim 18 is allowable over Bohannon and Patterson. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is allowable for at least this reason.

Bohannon and Patterson, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer readable medium for selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer which includes means for reading a configuration file that contains computer system information which includes manufacturer specific identification information, means for determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file including the manufacturer specific information identifying the computer system manufacturer, and means for storing the key in a registry, all as required by claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is allowable over Bohannon and Patterson. Claims 21 depends from claim 20 and is allowable for at least this reason.
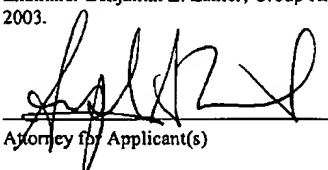
Bohannon and Patterson, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer system for selectively installing software onto a computer system manufactured by a computer system manufacturer which includes means for reading a configuration file that contains computer system information which includes manufacturer specific identification information identifying the computer system manufacturer, means for determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file including the manufacturer specific information, and means for storing the key in a registry, all as required by claim 22. Accordingly, claim 22 is allowable over Bohannon and Patterson.
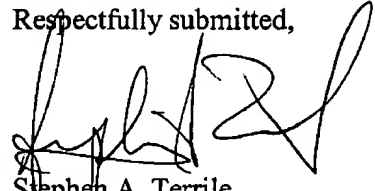
CONCLUSION

The rejection of the claims has been traversed and addressed through the amendments to the claims. No new claims have been added.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues

remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is sent via facsimile to Examiner Benjamin E. Lanier, Group Art Unit 2132 on March 31, 2003.

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Attorney for Applicant(s)   Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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